

*Come let us*

*walk in the*

*Light*

*of the Lord*

ADVENT 2013



**HOPE CHURCH**

77 W. 11th Street  
Holland, MI 49423  
(616) 392-7947

[www.HopeChurchRCA.org](http://www.HopeChurchRCA.org)

# Hope *for those who wait*

*"keep awake" Matthew 24:42*

## First Sunday of Advent

December 1

8:30 am Early Worship

9:40 am Adult Education

Advent Series: *Bathsheba's Story*

11:00 am Worship

Jill Russell, preaching

4:15 pm Jubilate Rehearsal

5:00 pm Advent Activities

- **Children: Crafts**

Preschool\* through 5th grade will make crafts for the Advent and Christmas season.

*\*Young children should be accompanied by an adult or an older sibling.*

- **Youth: Cookie Baking**

Fish Club and High Hopes will make cookies to deliver while Christmas caroling on Dec. 15.

- **Adults & Youth: Card Making & Prayer**

Bring your list of friends, family, and church members in need of prayer and support. Supplies for card making will be available as well as premade cards. At 5:40 pm we will share a short Advent Evensong Service to pray together.

5:30 pm Youth Instrumental Group

Rehearsal for middle/high school youth in preparation for the Dec. 8 Nativity Pageant and Christmas Eve Family Service.

6:00 pm Soup Supper & Lighting of Advent Candles

A simple meal will be provided after the Advent crafts and activities.

# Peace *for those who are weary*

*"live in harmony with one another" Romans 15:5*

## Second Sunday of Advent December 8

**8:30 am**      **Early Worship**

**9:40 am**      **St. Nicholas Breakfast**

The day will begin with a time to remember the traditions of St. Nicholas and breakfast in the Commons.

**11:00 am**      **Worship**

Gordon Wiersma, preaching

**3:50 pm**      **Jubilate Rehearsal**

**4:00 pm**      **Childcare available for pageant participants**

**4:00 pm**      **Advent Organ Recital**

Hope Church Organist, Rhonda Edgington, will share Advent and Christmas tunes and texts during a concert that will feature two guest musicians.

**4:30 pm**      **Youth Instrumental Group**

**4:30 pm**      **Nativity Rehearsal**

Children are asked to come costumed as a character in the story - a shepherd, sheep, angel, or magi. If you are in need of a costume, they will be available in the youth room. Please pick up your costume Sunday morning.

**5:00 pm**      **Nativity Pageant**

The pageant is a wonderful event for the whole church community to gather and celebrate the music and meaning of this season as the children act out the events of the Gospel story. A light snack will end the evening in the Commons.

# Joy

*for those who are watching*  
*"rejoice with joy and singing" Isaiah 35:1*

## Third Sunday of Advent December 15

8:30 am Early Worship

9:40 am Adult Education

Advent Series: *Ruth's Story*

11:00 am Worship

Jill Russell, preaching

12:15 pm Pizza Sunday

1:15 pm Congregational Caroling

Share the spirit of celebration and joy with those who find it difficult to join us. Poinsettias, gift bags, and cards will be shared as we carol. You don't have to have a great voice, just a smile to share. We will carol both to our own members and in the Hope Church neighborhood. Families and persons of all ages are encouraged to participate - many voices are needed!

---

# Love

*for those who are wounded*  
*"let your face shine" Psalm 80:3*

## Fourth Sunday of Advent December 22

8:30 am Early Worship

9:40 am Adult Education

Advent Series: *Rahab's Story*

11:00 am Worship

Gordon Wiersma, preaching

12:15 pm Jubilate Rehearsal & Lunch

*There are no evening activities planned.*

*Light* for those who are willing  
"The people... have seen a great light" Isaiah 9:2

## **Christmas Eve**

**Tuesday, December 24**

**5:30 pm      Family Worship Service**

Christmas carols will be sung and the Christmas story will be told as we worship the Christ child together.

**10:00 pm      Christmas Eve Reception For  
Young Adults**

All young adults (college age to age 30) are invited to reconnect with past members of Fish Club and High Hopes over cookies and hot cider in the Gathering Area.

**11:00 pm      Candlelight Communion**

Scripture lessons, carols, and music will fill our worship in a celebration of the birth of Christ. We greet Christmas morning sharing communion together, celebrating Jesus' birth.

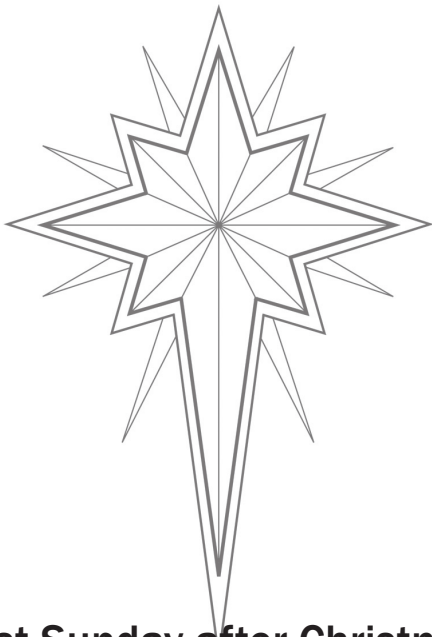
### **Preparing for the Celebration of Christ's Birth**

***Advent Devotionals***

There will be devotional booklets available for adults and families in the Gathering Area.

***Children's Ornaments***

Children are invited to take an ornament from the tree in the Gathering Area as a gift from Hope Church.



## **First Sunday after Christmas** December 29

**11:00 am Christmas Worship Service**

A worship service of carols, scripture, poetry, Christmas celebration & reflection.

*There will be no Early Worship, Church School, Adult Education, or Children in Worship.*

---

## **Epiphany Sunday** January 5

**9:40 am Adult Education**

Advent Series: *Elizabeth's & Mary's Stories*

**11:00 am Epiphany Worship Service**

Gordon Wiersma, preaching

The 4th and 5th graders will participate in the telling of the Gospel lesson.

**11:15 am Children in Worship**

CIW will meet in the Commons.

*There will be no Early Worship.*

# OPPORTUNITIES TO GIVE

## **Alternative Christmas Gifts**

Tired of searching for the “perfect present”? Sponsor a chicken, goat, cow or other items that can provide food and income for hungry families through the RCA Care Network, “Give A Gift of Hope”. Go to [www.rca.org/giftofhope](http://www.rca.org/giftofhope) to support this ministry. Look for more information in the Gathering Area on Sundays, Dec. 1, 8, and 15.

## **Tree of Light**

Become more involved in the lives of the community by selecting a tag off the tree in the Gathering Area beginning Dec. 1. Each tag will indicate a specific request. Purchase, wrap, and return the gift to Hope Church by Dec. 22.

## **Christmas Offering**

Our Christmas offering will go to NURU International. NURU is a development organization committed to ending extreme poverty in remote, rural areas in Kenya in a sustainable way. In the past year, a devastating maize blight has been spreading through Kenya which can cause almost complete crop loss. Our Christmas offering will provide assistance for the farmers regarding disease containment, education and training, and bean seeds given to plant. Further information can be found at [www.nuruinternational.org](http://www.nuruinternational.org)

## **White Gift Offering**

On Epiphany Sunday, bring a personal care product for a child or woman, wrapped in white tissue paper. These gifts will be brought forward during the offering, and later given to the Center for Women in Transition, a local agency assisting women and families caught in abusive relationships and empowering a hopeful future for them.